

food production in Africa has fallen behind population growth over the past 30 years.

This slow down in production has left Africa, an agriculturally rich continent, as a net importer of food. It has put Africa in a position where, they must rely on the international community to import products that could be produced in Africa given the right technical and development resources.

Although the United States remains the largest single contributor to the World Food Program—the last three years have actually seen the United States contribution drop by at least a third from 15 million to 10 million metric tons of food.

This is yet another example of Bush rhetoric, while food aid goes down, the President increases the budget for nation-building in Iraq and Afghanistan. I do believe that we must help rebuild countries that we have bombed, but we must also keep millions of people from starving on the African continent.

The United Nations estimates that over 222 million people in Africa are suffering from hunger. The reality is: emergency food aid needs are up and food aid assistance is down. Millions of Africans live and die below the hunger and poverty lines, of which a vast majority Africans are in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture to sustain and improve their livelihoods. If we could increase agricultural productivity by just one percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, we could raise 6 million people out of poverty and hunger.

We must listen to Africans and pay attention to what the social and economic challenges are in each country, challenges exacerbated by the food crisis.

One of the gravest crises relating to famine from my perspective is the devastating spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the continent. In some of the countries most affected by hunger, rates of HIV/AIDS prevalence are as high as 38 percent of the population, with ripple effects extending out to the health sector, education, and overall productivity throughout each country. AIDS and hunger together are strangling the African economy.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been fighting a war against the global HIV/AIDS pandemic for years. Finally, we have the Administration's support for this charge, but a real reluctance to request and appropriate the funding necessary. We must first ensure that our colleagues across the aisle join us in funding every penny of the President's \$3 billion initiative.

In my opinion, one of the greatest challenges in Africa to stopping the AIDS pandemic is coordinating HIV/AIDS treatment and famine relief. That is why, while drafting the AIDS bill, I fought for a major provision that would integrate food/nutrition and HIV/AIDS drugs.

Let me explain why HIV/AIDS and famine go hand-in-hand. When we take an aspirin for an ailment, we are instructed to take that aspirin with water and food.

Imagine taking drugs for the AIDS virus, a disease that has killed millions, on an empty stomach. The toxicity alone is harmful, but these anti-retroviral drugs on an empty stomach are perilous. This is one of the reasons why battling the food crisis is critical to the campaign to stop the Global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

More broadly, hunger and HIV/AIDS stifle productivity, undermine efforts to build infra-

structure, and detract from government investments for education, farming, and development in their people.

No one should be hungry. I understand, that if you teach a man to fish, he will eat every day, but at this critical time in Africa—the United States has the resources and the technologies to not only teach people, but also satisfy their hunger today. Furthermore, there have to be fish in the pond, and with drought and desert expanding everyday, we must work toward both short term aid and long term solutions.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the words of Secretary Powell during his trip to North Korea, "... But to go back on our solid policy is that we don't use food as a political weapon. You go through all the politics; there are kids out there that are starving. If we can help them, we will."

I agree with Secretary Powell, food is our weapon to combat the rising hunger in Africa—and we must address this issue now.

Let's re-visit the Bush Administration's underfunded Africa budget which cuts peace and democracy, agriculture development, and corruption and good governance programs. Let's really look at the needs of people. Africa needs our help and we must deliver.

Thank you Chairman CUMMINGS, I yield back my time.

#### CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF STODDARD, WISCONSIN ON IT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to honor the historic village of Stoddard, Wisconsin. This year, from July 11 to July 13th 2003, Stoddard will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. This beautiful village, the crossroads of western Wisconsin, is bordered by majestic bluffs and the mighty Mississippi River. Located along the great river road, Stoddard quietly represents Wisconsin's heritage and natural beauty.

The first to arrive in the Stoddard area were the native Americans who planted their tradition and history in the region. However, it was Henry H. White and his family who really developed the future site of Stoddard after coming to the area from Vermont in 1868. His son, C.P. White, is credited for the naming of this village after Colonel Thomas B. Stoddard.

Colonel Stoddard originally came to the area in 1853 and helped build and expand the new community. He was a great promoter of railroads and helped form the La Crosse and Prairie Du Chien Railroad Corporation.

With its general stores, blacksmith shops, school, and railroad, life in Stoddard was a shining example of successful rural communities in the United States.

While it already had developed a rich history, it was not until 1903 when a post office was needed that Stoddard was officially born. Interestingly, Stoddard only became a river town in 1937, when the pool created by lock and dam #8 flooded 18,000 acres of bottom land and brought the river to its doorsteps.

Stoddard's centennial celebrates the best of rural America. There are thousands of rural

communities across this nation that form the backbone of rural life. These communities are the incubators of local politics, commerce, education, recreation, entertainment and faith for rural neighborhoods. Collectively, the hard working citizens of small town America are the builders of our great nation.

I am frequently in Stoddard because, like many others in the area, I enjoy fishing in the Mississippi off of the new islands created by the E.M.P. program in pool 8, and my wife and I often take our two boys to visit my mother and stepfather, Greta and Don Lake, who live there. As often as we can, we also try to stop by Rocky's Supper Club for one of the best fish fry's in western Wisconsin.

I am proud to congratulate the citizens of Stoddard on their unique anniversary. It is important that we all recognize their unique contribution to the development of western Wisconsin, and I wish all Stoddard residents happiness and success for another 100 years.

#### CONTINUING OUR HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

##### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after reading the eloquent and thoughtful remarks offered this morning to the House Resources Committee by Gerald Zackios, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I commend Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Ranking NICK RAHALL for their leadership in holding this hearing.

I would like to comment on the record on the importance of renewing the Compact of Free Association with the Marshall Islands as soon as possible. The Marshallese have long been a strong ally to the United States and our bilateral relationship must continue on its historically solid path. While the amended document negotiated in good faith by the Marshallese and the Departments of State and Interior is outstanding, I believe it still needs to be thoroughly reviewed and enhanced by Congress.

As Congress examines the negotiated agreement, it is imperative that serious consideration is given to the additional provisions that could enhance U.S. assistance to the Marshall Islands in the following areas: infrastructure development that will strengthen their economy, federal education programs—which the Marshallese rely on to better prepare their children for the future, disaster relief, adjusting our grant assistance for inflation and finally, providing for the future needs of the landowners of the Kwajalein Atoll, home of a key U.S. Army missile testing facility.

Mr. Speaker, I also hope at some appropriate point during the 108th Congress that we will give a full and proper hearing to the outstanding nuclear claims issues for which the Marshallese have petitioned the U.S. government.

In closing, the U.S. could not ask for a better partnership than that which we share with the Marshallese. Our careful, collective attention to the Compact and to the wishes of the Marshallese will pay dividends to both countries for decades to come.